

Senate Bill 527

By: Senator Chapman of the 3rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Ethics in Government Act," so as to provide for a gift disclosure report for public officers; to define a term; to provide for the contents of such report; to provide for penalties for late filing; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 5 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the "Ethics in Government Act," is amended by adding a new article to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 5

21-5-90.

(a) Every public officer shall electronically file, in the format specified by the commission, a monthly gift disclosure report. Such report shall be filed by the fifth day of each month and shall include gifts accepted by the public officer during the current period. If no gifts are received during the current period, no gift disclosure report shall be filed. Gifts received from family shall not be included in such report. As used in this subsection, the term 'family' means the public officer's child, stepchild, parent, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew, grandchild, grandparent, or spouse whether of the whole or half blood or by adoption.

(b) Gift disclosure reports shall be verified and shall include:

(1) The name and title of the person providing the gift and, if the gift was given by an organization, the name of such organization;

(2) The value, date, and description of the gift;

(3) A brief description of the public officer's connection to the gift giver and, if applicable, the number of the bill, resolution, ordinance, or regulation pending before the governmental entity with which the gift giver is associated; and

(4) A brief description of the public officer's connection to the gift giver and, if applicable, the rule or regulation number or a description of the rule or regulation pending before the state agency with which the gift giver is associated.

(c) The electronic filing of any gift disclosure report required by this Code section shall constitute an affirmation that such report is true, complete, and correct.

(d) In addition to other penalties provided in this chapter, a filing fee of \$50.00 shall be imposed for each gift disclosure report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$100.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed by such date. A fine of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed by such date. Such fines shall be paid from the filer's personal funds; no funds from other sources shall be used to pay such penalty."

## **SECTION 2.**

This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2011, and the first monthly gift disclosure report shall be filed on or before February 5, 2011, reflecting gifts received during January, 2011.

## **SECTION 3.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.